

a connecting device adapted to connect the communicating system; and

a control device adapted to inhibit others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera when one of said control apparatuses controls the camera through the communication system.

B³
C
71. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control apparatus controls each of a plurality of cameras through said communication system.

72. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a designation device adapted to designate a desired image on a screen of a display device.

73. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

74. An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein said control device releases the other control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

75. An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to

display a time at which the control of the camera is inhibited.

76. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display that said one of said plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera, in case of that the control of the camera is inhibited.

77. A method of controlling a camera coupled to a communication system having a plurality of control apparatuses, wherein the camera is controllable by each of said plurality of control apparatuses, said method comprising the steps of:

a step of controlling the camera through the communication system with one of the plurality of control apparatuses; and

a step of inhibiting the others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the communication system when the camera is controlled by said one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the communication system.

78. A method according to Claim 77, wherein a plurality of cameras are coupled to the communication system, and wherein said step of controlling comprises the step of controlling the plurality of cameras, through said

B2
Cont A

109785249-032001

communications system, by the one of the plurality of control apparatuses.

79. A method according to Claim 77, further comprising the step of displaying a plurality of images on the screen, and the step of designating one of the images displayed on the screen.

80. A method according to Claim 77, wherein said inhibiting step comprises the step of inhibiting said others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling said camera for a predetermined period of time.

81. A method according to Claim 80, further comprising the step of releasing said others of said plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling said camera after said predetermined period of time has lapsed.

82. A method according to Claim 80, further comprising the step of displaying an indication that the camera is controlled by said one of the plurality of control apparatus, to the control apparatus which is inhibited from controlling the camera in case of that the control of the camera is inhibited.--